



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office

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September 21, 2006

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to document and disclose the results of an environmental analysis of an application received by BLM to lease a tract of Federal coal, the Eagle Butte West Tract, to the Eagle Butte Mine in the Wyoming Powder River Basin. A copy of this document is provided for your review and comments. The Draft EIS may also be reviewed on the BLM Wyoming homepage (www.wy.blm.gov). Copies of the Draft EIS are also available for public inspection at the following BLM offices:

Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Bureau of Land Management
Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604

A formal public hearing on this application to lease Federal coal will be held at 7:00 p.m. on November 14, 2006, at the Clarion Hotel, 2009 South Douglas Highway, Gillette, Wyoming. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the proposed coal lease sale, on the fair market value, and on the maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal resources included in the tract.

BLM has prepared a separate document entitled *Supplementary Information on the Affected Environment in the General Analysis Area for the Eagle Butte West Coal Lease Application EIS* in addition to this Draft EIS. This document, which is available on request, includes more detailed site-specific information about the potentially affected resources included in the study area for Eagle Butte West Tract.

BLM will accept public comments on this Draft EIS, for sixty (60) days commencing on the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. Comments received after the end of the 60-day comment period will be considered in preparation of the Final EIS as time permits. BLM is also publishing a Notice of Availability and Notice of Hearing in the Federal Register.

cite the location or locations in the document on which you are commenting. The agencies involved in preparing this Draft EIS are required to respond in the Final EIS to all substantive comments submitted on the Draft EIS. Substantive comments should: (1) give any new information that could alter conclusions; (2) show why or how analysis or assumptions in the Draft EIS are flawed; (3) show errors in data, sources, or methods; or (4) request clarifications that bear on conclusions. Opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response. However, they will be considered and included as part of the BLM decision making process.

This Draft EIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and applicable regulations, and other applicable statutes, to address possible environmental and socioeconomic impacts that could result from this project. This Draft EIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public and the agency decision makers of the impacts of leasing the Eagle Butte West Tract of Federal coal to the existing Eagle Butte Mine in the Wyoming Powder River Basin and to evaluate alternatives to leasing the Federal coal included in the tract as applied for.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the address listed below during regular business hours (7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and will be published as part of the Final EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Please send written comments to Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, Attn: Nancy Doelger, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. Written comments may also be e-mailed to the attention of Nancy Doelger at "casper_wymail@blm.gov". E-mail comments must include the name and mailing address of the commentor to receive consideration. Written comments may also be faxed to (307)-261-7587.

If you have any questions or would like to obtain a copy of the supplementary information document or additional copies of this DEIS, please contact Nancy Doelger at (307) 261-7627, or at the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Bennett", written in a cursive style.

Robert A. Bennett
State Director